



# Firestone Tire and Rubber Company Superfund Site

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY • REGION 9 • FEBRUARY 2005

Salinas, CA

## U.S. EPA Proposes to Delete Site from Superfund List

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) is proposing to delete the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company Superfund Site, located in Salinas, California, from the National Priorities List (NPL). The NPL is the nationwide list of hazardous waste sites which have been identified for cleanup under the federal Superfund program. Deleting the site from the NPL means that the cleanup of contamination has been completed. If new information becomes available which indicates a need for additional action, EPA may initiate further cleanup activities.

### Site Description and History

The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company Superfund Site (Site) is a 256-acre parcel of land located at 340 El Camino Real South in Salinas, California (see map). The Site, which is currently an industrial park containing warehouses, is surrounded by agricultural lands and is approximately six miles southeast of downtown Salinas. Between 1963 and 1980, the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company (now Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.), owned and operated a tire manufacturing facility at this location. During the facility's operation, Firestone released chlorinated solvents and other chemicals to the soil and groundwater at the Site.

Under the oversight of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Firestone conducted interim cleanup measures to address the soil and groundwater contamination at the Site. Firestone excavated contaminated soils for off-site disposal and constructed a groundwater extraction and treatment system to remove contaminants from the groundwater. In February 1987, the Site was added to the NPL.

(Cont'd. on back)

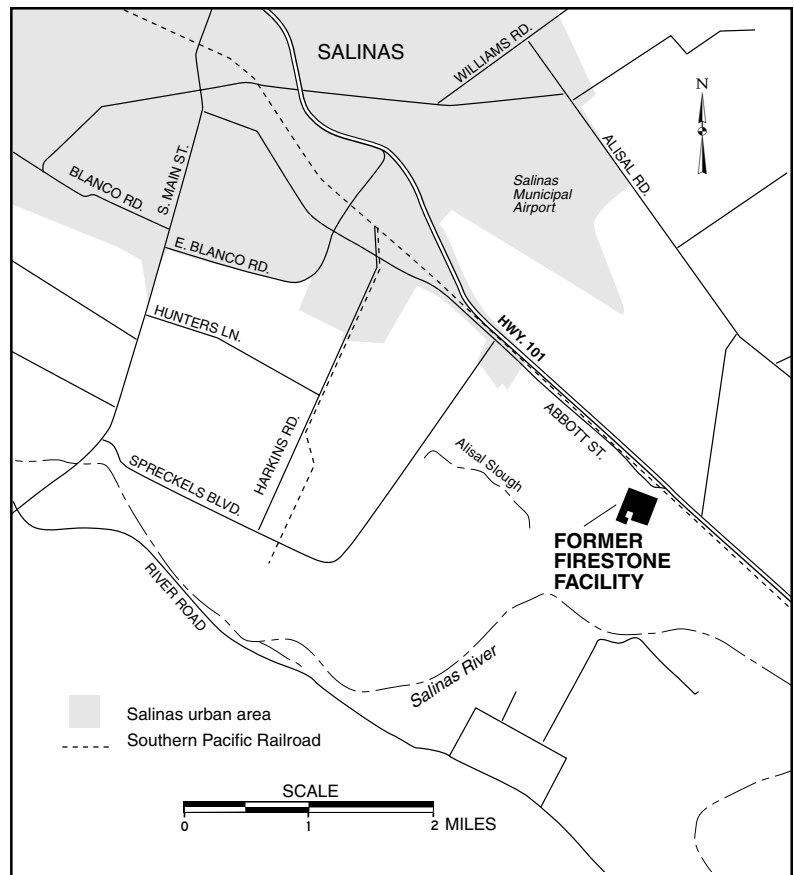


Figure 1: Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. Superfund Site vicinity

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**  
**February 15, 2005 through March 16, 2005**

In September 1989, EPA issued a Record of Decision (ROD) Declaration that formally agreed with the final Site remedy selected by DTSC, the lead agency. As specified in the ROD, Firestone expanded the existing groundwater cleanup system to address deeper groundwater contamination. In June 1992, the groundwater cleanup levels were achieved in all hydrological zones, and the groundwater extraction and treatment system was shut down. Until July 1998, Firestone continued to monitor the groundwater and found that contaminant levels in the intermediate and deep zones remained below the cleanup levels. Contaminant levels in two shallow zone monitoring wells increased above cleanup levels but did not constitute a significant risk to human health or the environment as explained below.

The two shallow zone monitoring wells were located in a geologic zone that did not always contain groundwater, especially during dry years. After reviewing the groundwater monitoring data, the RWQCB determined that the small pocket of residual contamination existed above the normal water table and that it would not impact the

underlying regional aquifers. In July 2000, the RWQCB determined that no further cleanup was needed at the Site and closed the case. In March 2003, the RWQCB clarified that the shallow geologic zone, where the residual contamination was detected, was not a permanent or suitable source for supplying water.

## Public Comment

EPA will publish the Notice of Intent to Delete, the official notice of this proposed deletion, in the Federal Register on February 14, 2005 which starts a 30-day public comment period. If EPA receives adverse comments, EPA will prepare a responsiveness summary. The responsiveness summary will be available in the local repository and will be published in the Federal Register as part of the Notice of Deletion, which is the official notice of deletion of the Site from the NPL. Comments may be mailed to Vicki Rosen, Community Involvement Coordinator, U.S. EPA Region IX (SFD-3), 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105, or by e-mail to: [rosen.vicki@epa.gov](mailto:rosen.vicki@epa.gov)



---

## Information Repository

Additional information concerning Superfund activities at the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company Superfund Site, including information supporting the delisting decision, is available for review at:

**John Steinbeck Library**  
350 Lincoln Avenue  
Salinas, CA 93901  
(831) 758-7311



Library hours are as follows:

Tues. & Wed.	1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Fri. & Sat.	1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

## For More Information

### Vicki Rosen

Community Involvement Coordinator  
U.S. EPA Region IX (SFD-3)  
75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 972-3244 or (800) 231-3075  
[rosen.vicki@epa.gov](mailto:rosen.vicki@epa.gov)

### Patricia Bowlin

Remedial Project Manager  
U.S. EPA Region IX (SFD-7-3)  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(415) 972-3177 or (800) 231-3075  
[bowlin.patricia@epa.gov](mailto:bowlin.patricia@epa.gov)